

HOW SOME POSTAGE STAMPS SELL.

Curious Old Stamps Held at Hundreds of Dollars—Some Auction Prices Last Monday.

The prices obtained at auction and private sale for articles valuable only to one who rides a "hobby" are wonderful. Thousands of dollars for bric-a-brac, old furniture, plates, dishes, vases, books, paintings and lesser amounts for coins and postage stamps. These last, although financially not so interesting, still bring even high prices, if we consider the shortness of time during which postage stamps have been in use.

As an example, take the auction sale of January 16, this year, for an original Brattleboro, Vt., stamp \$226 was obtained. This is the highest price a postage stamp has ever sold at auction in this country. But this stamp is not the most valuable in existence, for the first issue of Mauritius from \$200 to \$1,000 is the estimated value. There are several other extremely rare stamps known, among which might be mentioned this first issue of the Sandwich Islands, the first issue of the New Caledonia used, and the first issue of the Isle Reunion, all of which are held at prices ranging from \$200 up.

Then among the United States stamps there are some very rare and valuable ones, such as the Baltimore stamp of 1846, consisting of the autographic signature of James M. Buchanan, the postmaster of Baltimore at the time, with 5 cents below, the whole enclosed in a frame of single lines and printed in black. Of these only ten specimens are known. They are valued at about \$200 each. Another valuable stamp is the original uncut stamp of New Haven of 1845. Only one specimen is in existence, and it is valued at \$500. The 5-cent black stamp of Millbury, of which only three specimens are known, is also valued at about \$500. It is very seldom that these extreme rarities are offered at auction.

A curious thing in connection with rare stamps is the fact that there was one, issued by the postmaster of New York in 1845, a specimen of which has never yet been discovered. Of course, if one should be found it would command a very high price. The way this stamp is known is from a printed description printed in the New York Express of July 8, 1845. It is there stated that the stamp was in use at that time. It probably remained in use only a few weeks, for on July 14 adhesive stamps were issued, which must have taken its place. It is described as being simply a hand stamp having a design five cents above, and R. H. Morris (the New York postmaster) below, the imprint being in black and upon an envelope.

Last Monday evening an interesting auction sale of postage stamps was held at Bangs & Co.'s auction rooms, 739 Broadway. From 5,000 to 6,000 specimens were sold, netting altogether about \$1,440. The attendance at the sale was very good, some 40 persons, mostly of mature age, being present. One of the largest buyers was the Scott Stamp & Coin Co. The collection had been the property of Mr. E. H. Sinsbaugh, of this city, and was noteworthy because of the number of unused stamps in it. In fact, all except a very few were uncanceled. None of the outstanding varieties just mentioned were represented, but there were a number of the second degree of rarity. Some of the most interesting prices, both to the collector and the general public, all the stamps sold being uncanceled, unless otherwise stated were the following:

United States—Issue of 1856, 3 cents scarlet, \$5.75; newspaper stamps, 1872, \$12 green, cancelled with punch, \$6.36 red, cancelled with punch, \$11.25; \$18 brown, cancelled with punch, \$13.25; \$50 violet, cancelled with punch, \$18; New York, 1843, 3 cents, blue glazed paper, \$4.50; 1845, 5 cents black, without signature, \$2.30; Providence, 10 cents black, unsevered, \$15; carrier stamp, 1851, horseman, 1 cent red, cancelled \$6.10; War Department envelope, 10 cents red on white, \$12; 10 cents red on amber, \$7.75. Bolivia—1867, 10c., brown, \$7.50; 1876, 11 stars, 50c., black, \$19. Dominican Republic—1862, 1c., green, Italian letters, \$14. Great Britain, 1847, 1 shilling, \$6.50; envelope stamp, Mulund, first postage stamp ever issued, 1 penny, black paper, cancelled, \$3.05; same, 2 penny, blue wrapped, cancelled, \$5.10. Natal, 1857, 2 penny, blue, \$21.50. Nova Scotia, 1857, 1 shilling, violet, 1850. Two Sicilies, issued during the time of Garibaldi, Arms, torse, blue, \$30. United States of Columbia, 1872, 20c., red, \$21. Bolivar, 1863, 10c., green, cancelled \$19.—New York Sun.

The Oldest Living Mason.

Col. Edward Sumner, of San Francisco, is visiting his daughter, Mrs. Ada E. Taylor, on Locust street. Col. Sumner is the oldest Free-Mason known to be living in the world. He has been a Mason for seventy-one years. He was born in 1796. A remarkable fact is that he can read without the aid of glasses. In the war of 1812 he was a member of a transportation company in New York which was engaged in transporting munitions and troops. He came to California in 1850, but returned to Wisconsin a few years later. He served in the Wisconsin Legislature during 1859-60. In 1863 he once more came to California, where he has since remained. Col. Sumner who is a descendant of the Sumners who came to America in the Mayflower.—Santa Cruz (Cal.) Sentinel.

On the Train.

First Young Lady (who has just boarded the train)—Where are you going, Mary?
Second Ditto—Why, in here, to be sure; don't you see there's lots of empty seats?
—What a ninny you are, come, let's go in this other car. Don't you see it's chuck full, and it will be no place to make a couple of gentlemen give up their seats.—Boston Transcript.

I have left my notes and book accounts due me with Bert Woodward for collection and have instructed him what to do. Call and see him at once at A. Yerrington's office, J. W. McLeod.*

Having removed from Alma, I have left my business with Bert Woodward, to whom all debts due me must be paid. Also parties wishing to buy building lots may apply. John M. Flanigan.*

To Rent.—The Wm. Hornig Store building, a very suitable place for Millinery store, Dress making rooms, Harness shop or stock of goods, also good rooms up stairs for residence or photograph rooms. I also have a good pair of work oxen for sale.
472-1f. * Apply to W. O. Johnson.

For Sale.—A new Jackson lumber wagon with double box and spring seat all complete, one pair of first-class Mules, weigh about 1100 each. Will sell very cheap as I am going out of business and must sell.

L. D. Rodman.

The undersigned is prepared to serve oysters in every style, at all hours, at his restaurant west of H. A. Delevan's.
S. G. Hopkins.

Farmers in this vicinity wishing to improve their stock will do well to call and see the stock of Wright & Hooper before going elsewhere, as we have for sale some very choice young bulls ready for service this year, also bull calves, heifers and heifer calves which we will sell on reasonable terms.
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It is sold by all responsible druggists at one dollar for a quart bottle, or six bottles for five dollars.
Those who cannot obtain a bottle of this medicine from their druggist may send us one dollar and we will deliver it to them free of any charges.
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At Night always have Soother at hand. It is the only safe medicine yet made that will remove all infantile disorders. It contains no Opium or Morphine, but gives the child natural ease from pain. Price 25 cents. Sold by B. S. Webb.

A Woman's Discovery. 2

"Another wonderful discovery has been made and that too by a woman in this county. Disease fastened its clutches upon her and for seven years she withstood its severest tests, but her vital organs were undermined and death seemed imminent. For three months she coughed incessantly and could not sleep. She bought of us a bottle of Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption and was so much relieved on taking the first dose that she slept all night, and with one bottle has been miraculously cured. Her name is Mrs. Luther Lutz." Thus wrote W. C. Hamrick & Co. of Shelby, N. C.—Get a free trial bottle at B. S. Webb's Drug Store.

The Verdict Unanimous. 2

W. D. Sutt, Druggist, Elkhart, Ind., testifies, "I can recommend Electric Bitters as the very best remedy. Every bottle sold has given relief in every case. One man took six bottles and was cured of Rheumatism of 10 years' standing." A Graham Hare, druggist, Belleville, Ohio, affirms: "The best selling medicine I have ever handled in my 35 years' experience, is Electric Bitters." Thousands of others have added their testimony, so that the verdict is unanimous that Electric Bitters do cure all diseases of the Liver, Kidneys or Blood. Only half a dollar a bottle at B. S. Webb's Drug Store.

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